

## ORDINANCE NO. 2241

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO CITY DEPARTMENTS; TO AMEND SECTIONS 3-102 AND 3-120 OF THE CRETE MUNICIPAL CODE; INCLUDING AN AFTER-HOURS RECONNECTION FEE.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA:**

**Section 1.** That Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3-102 of the Crete Municipal Code be amended as follows:

### **3-102 Electric Department; Definitions.**

The following definitions shall be applied throughout this Article. Where no definition is specified, the normal dictionary usage of the word shall apply.

- (1) *Collection Charge.* A charge added to a utility bill outstanding and unpaid at the time and date specified for disconnection of service for nonpayment. This charge is to defray additional office and staff expense required to implement collection procedures.
- (2) *Connection Charge.* A charge to be collected from the customer on establishing a new account or transferring an account in name or location. This charge is to defray additional office and staff expense required to initiate service or to implement the change in service.
- (3) *Distribution System.* This term includes all poles, wires, cables, and all facilities necessary to bring electric energy from the source transmission or generating system to the customer's premises.
- (4) *Easement.* Tracts of privately deeded land where rights to install, operate, maintain, remove, or replace utility lines have been established by instrument or otherwise.
- (5) *Encroachment.* Any structure, plant, or other physical feature placed in a street, alley, or an easement by others that restricts its beneficial use by the grantee of the easement.
- (6) *Meter.* An electric watt-hour meter provided by the Crete Electric Department to measure electric power and energy.
- (7) *Meter Socket.* A device normally permanently attached and wired into the customer's service equipment, designed to mount an electric meter.
- (8) *Point of Attachment.* A hook or other means of attaching an overhead electric service to a structure. This is provided by and is the responsibility of the owner of the premises.
- (9) *Reconnection Fee.* A charge to defray the additional office and staff expense of restoring electric service previously disconnected for nonpayment.
- (10) *Reconnection Fee: After Hours.* A charge to defray the additional overtime office and staff expense of restoring electric service previously disconnected for nonpayment between 5:01 p.m. and 7:59 a.m.
- (11) *Service Call.* A visit by Crete Electric Department personnel to the customer's premises for any purpose that is made at the customer's request.
- (12) *Service Drop Conductors.* Those wires or cables, generally provided by the Crete Electric Department, whether underground or overhead, that connect the electric service entrance of the customer from the point of attachment to the electric distribution system in the alley, street, or easement.
- (13) *Service Deposit.* An amount of money a customer is required to deposit with the Electric Department to be used by the Electric Department to apply on any unpaid utility bills on termination of service.

**Section 2.** That Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3-120 of the Crete Municipal Code be amended as follows:

### **3-120 Electric Department; Billing; Collecting.**

- (1) Customer accounts shall be kept under such bookkeeping system as determined by the City. A ledger shall be kept current with a separate account for each customer. All electric meters shall be read monthly by the Electric Department, and the amount of usage shall be billed according to the rates, fees, and other costs set forth in the City's Master Fee Schedule.
- (2) All bills for electric service shall be due on and become delinquent after the due date specified on the bill. If a customer neglects, refuses, or otherwise fails to pay their bill in full on or before five o'clock p.m. on the due date, the amount due will be increased by the late payment charge. If the bill becomes delinquent, a notice will be mailed to inform the customer that electric service will be discontinued no earlier than ten nor later than sixteen days after the due date, with no further notice, and that service will not be restored until the bill is paid in full, together with any collection and reconnection, any after hours fees, and costs and deposit repayment. Deposit repayment will be based on eighty percent (80%) of two months average billing for the customer.

**Section 3.** That the changes specified in the above section shall be codified as part of the Crete Municipal Code as stated herein.

**Section 4.** All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed and that any partial repeal shall not affect the other parts of ordinances or codified sections that can be given effect without the repealed parts.

**Section 5.** That if any section, part, or provision of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of any other section, part, or provision of this ordinance.

**Section 6.** This ordinance shall be published in pamphlet, book, or electronic form and shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication, as provided by law.

PASSED AND ENACTED this 1st day of April 2025.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

Seal